

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12244 280405Z  
ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 IO-06 DPW-01 INR-05  
CIAE-00 NSC-05 /040 W  
-----081552 290249Z /66  
R 280244Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3753  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
CDR JCRC BARBERS POINT HI

C O N F I D E T I A L BANGKOK 12244

LIMDIS

ET 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UNHCR RH VM  
SUBJECT: VISIT TO SRV BY UNHCR OFFICIAL

REF: GENEVA 5060, STATE 09910, BANGKOK 10405,  
GENEVA 5391

1. UNHCR OFFICIAL ENROUTE FROM HANOI TO GENEVA, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE INTENDS TO RECOMMEND TO UNHCR PRESENTATION TO HANOI OF CAREFULLY SELECTED CASES OF VIETNAMESE FAMILY REUNIONS FOR VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS IN THE U S. HE WILL ALSO RECOMMEND THAT ICRC PURSUE A PARALLEL EFFORT FOR U S DEPENDENTS IN VIETNAM. NOTING THAT THE UNHCR HAD RECENTLY FACILITATED REUNION OF VIETNAMESE FAMILIES IN GERMANY, ITALY AND AUSTRALIA, HE BELIEVES THAT SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN GENERATED WITH SRV DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS VU HUANG TO TEST THE WATER WITH U S CASES. HE DID NOT DISCUSS THIS IDEA DIRECTLY WITH HUANG. UNHCR OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT CASES SHOULD BE WELL DOCUMENTED. HOPEFULLY, HANOI CAN ACCEPT A FEW "EASY CASES," THEN SLOWLY WORK TOWARDS LARGER NUMBERS AND MORE DIFFICULT CASES.

2. UNHCR OFFICIAL DID NOT RECEIVE ANY INDICATION FROM SRV  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 12244 280405Z

OFFICIALS CONCERNING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RESUME CONTACTS WITH THE U S ON MIAS, BUT HE BELIEVES THAT IF HANOI IS PREPARED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY ON REUNION CASES, THIS WOULD BE A GESTURE INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED ON OTHER MATTERS WITH THE U.S. HE IS CONVINCED THAT AFTER AN APPROPRIATE INTERVAL HANOI WILL WANT TO RESUME CONTACTS WITH THE U S AND UNDERTAKE THE MIA-RELATED VISIT TO HAWAII. HE PUT THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE

REALIZATION ON PART OF HANOI THAT IT WAS IN VIETNAM'S BEST INTEREST

TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

3. SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY, OFFICIAL SAID THAT VIETNAMESE PRIORITIES CONCERNING THESE ISSUES REMAIN AS BEFORE. HANOI WANTS TO REPATRIATE CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES FIRST AND AFTERWARD DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF REUNION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALITY. THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT MEAN THAT HANOI WILL NOT PROCEED WITH CERTAIN CASES OF FAMILY REUNION, AND UNHCR OFFICIAL

BELIEVES WE SHOULD PRESS CAUTIOUSLY ON REUNION. HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE 14,000 CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO BE DEALT WITH, INCLUDING 6000 FRENCH CITIZENS, 3000 REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN), 400 AUSTRALIANS, MANY FILIPINOS, PAKISTANIS, INDIANS, AND EVEN AN UNCERTAIN NUMBER OF PRC CITIZENS.

4. HANOI RAISED THE SUBJECT OF UNHCR ASSISTANCE WITH CAMBODIAN RESIDENTS IN THE SRV, SAYING THERE WERE 100,000 SUCH "REFUGEES." VIETNAMESE ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORT ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNHCR AND HELP WITH RESETTLEMENT OF AN UNDEFINED NUMBER. HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS WITH THE VIETNAMESE SINCE, HE SAID, UNHCR POLICY MUST FIRST BE DECIDED. INITIALLY, UNHCR WOULD WANT TO SEND A TEAM TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN VIETNAM TO DETERMINE IF THE CAMBODIANS SHOULD BE CALLED REFUGEES, HOW MANY MIGHT WISH  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 12244 280405Z

TO BE RESETTLED (PRESUMABLY MOSTLY IN FRANCE, HE SAID.), ETC.

5. OVERALL, UNHCR OFFICIAL STRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE ISSUES OF REUNION OF FAMILIES AND REPATRIATION, INCLUDING TO THE U.S., MUST BE HANDLED QUETLY. EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY MIGHT, HE BELIEVES, EMBARRASS HANOI AND LESSEN SERIOUSLY THE CHANCES FOR EARLY REPATRIATION AND FAMILY REUNIONS.

6. REGARDING STATUS OF HOCKE OF ICRC GENEVA (REF D), MISSION WAS CORRECT. OFFICIAL SAID HOCKE REMAINS AT WORK IN GENEVA. OUR PREVIOUS REPORT WAS BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 28 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** VISIT TO SRV BY UNHCR OFFICIAL  
**TAGS:** OTRA, PORG, RH, VM, UNHCR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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